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Letter dated 9 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 May 2006 addressed to you by Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, forwarding the letter of Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and Mr. Talat's letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a letter dated 8 May 2006 addressed to you by Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

We have been waiting for some time to establish a fruitful dialogue with the Greek Cypriot side with the purpose of launching a renewed phase of fully-fledged negotiations under your auspices for the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. We were, therefore, astonished and dismayed with the remarks recently made by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, in his interview published in the French magazine *L'Express* dated 4 May 2006.

In his interview, among other things, he stated that "We (the Greek Cypriots) categorically reject a State that would have two distinctive zones and two types of communal structures (*Nous refusons catégoriquement un Etat qui comporterait deux zones distinctes et deux types de structures communales*)". This unfortunate remark of the Greek Cypriot leadership clearly contradicts the settlement parameters set in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, the conclusions of the 1977-1979 Summit meetings agreed on between the leaders of the two sides, as well as the parameters established in four-decades-old negotiations carried out between the two parties under the auspices of the United Nations Secretaries-General. Furthermore, it also runs counter to the expressed will of the international community, and particularly to that of the European Union, which on numerous occasions underlined its full support for a settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of a bizonal, bicommunal federation.

It is most disappointing that such a statement came at a time when the United Nations is working diligently to improve the current atmosphere in the island with the establishment of technical committees between the two parties. The establishment of these committees was also aimed at preparing the ground for meaningful negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem by building confidence between the two sides, which has been greatly damaged with the Greek Cypriot rejection of the Annan plan, and more importantly, as a result of the uncompromising policies that the Greek Cypriot leadership followed thereafter.

This statement also confirms the fact that it was not a slip of tongue when the Greek Cypriot leader stated before the United Nations General Assembly on 18 September 2005 (see A/60/PV.11) that he envisaged a solution in Cyprus through "osmosis", meaning the integration of the Turkish Cypriot people to the "Republic of Cyprus" by means of assimilation.

I believe that the prospect for a settlement in Cyprus, which unfortunately is already not promising owing to the lack of political will on the part of the Greek Cypriot leadership, will be further and seriously damaged if the parties interested in the settlement of the Cyprus problem continue to remain silent in the face of such provocative and counterproductive statements made by the Greek Cypriot leadership.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate, once again, the firm commitment of the Turkish Cypriot side to the settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of your good offices mission and on the basis of the Annan plan.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet Ali **Talat**
President